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better than none; and we fancy that this fact, and their comparatively small cost, accounts for their presence in a book worthy of a far better accompaniment. The half-tones in the text, on the other hand, are for the most part well reproduced, well selected, and appropriate to the text, giving characteristic views of the haunts of many species, as well of many nesting sites, nests and eggs, and of living birds.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States,' Second Edition.—The "second edition, revised"¹ differs from the first mainly through a revision of the matter relating to the Horned Larks (genus *Otocoris*, pp. 266–269), which has been rewritten and brought down to date, and the addition of Addenda (pp. 486–488) giving a list of the alterations in the names of western birds made by the Nomenclature Committee of the A. O. U. since the publication of the first edition in 1902, and also correcting the few omissions and errors of the first edition that could not readily be made in the text. The generous commendation given the work in our notice of the first edition need not be here repeated. The early call for a second edition shows that the work is appreciated and meets a real need.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Wheelock's 'Birds of California.'²—In this attempt to provide a non-technical manual of three hundred of the commoner birds of California the author has attained a high degree of success, and has also produced a work of much permanent value on account of the many original field observations, which add to the sum of our knowledge of the life histories of many of the species considered. As to the plan of the work: "Keys have been avoided and a simple classification, according to habitat or color, substituted," following a plan used by a previous author, here adopted and commended. Under the head of 'Contents,' the species are enumerated under the English names of the A. O. U. Check-List, beginning with the 'Water Birds,' which are grouped into sections according to their haunts, followed by 'Land Birds,' grouped as (1) 'Upland Game Birds,' (2) 'Birds of Prey,' and (3) 'Common Land Birds in Color Groups,' which latter are divided, on the basis of color, into eight minor groups. The species are arranged in the same incongruous order in the text, but are designated by the A. O. U. Check-List numbers and names, both tech-

¹ For collation and review of the first edition see *Auk*, XX, 1903, pp. 76–78.

² *Birds of California | An Introduction | to more than Three Hundred Common | Birds of the State and Adjacent Islands | With a Supplementary List of rare migrants, accidental | visitants, and hypothetical subspecies | By Irene Grosvenor Wheelock | author of "Nestlings of Forest and Marsh" | With ten full-page plates and seventy-eight drawings | in the text by Bruce Horsfall | [Vignette] Chicago | A. C. McClurg & Co. | 1904 — Sm. 8vo, pp. xxviii + 578, 10 half-tone plates, 78 text figures.*